



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Fort Myers	Ocala
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
Tuesday, February 3, 2009			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
<a href="http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr">http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr</a>			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

## **DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR UNLAWFUL SALE OF A MACHINE GUN**

Tampa, FL - United States District Judge Susan C. Bucklew today sentenced Harold Gunn (age 30, of Camden, Michigan) to 24 months' imprisonment and Christopher Goebel (age 26, of Sarasota, Florida) to 21 months' imprisonment for the unlawful transfer of a machine gun. Both defendants had pleaded guilty on November 5, 2008.

According to court documents, an undercover agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) met with Gunn and Goebel on January 28, 2008, in Sarasota, Florida, and negotiated the sale of a converted, fully automatic Norinco SKS assault rifle to the agent for a sum of \$1,500, along with 30 rounds of ammunition for the gun. The defendants admitted to the agent that Goebel had converted the firearm into a fully automatic machine gun. They also discussed future sales of firearms. Neither Gunn nor Goebel had the required federal license to possess or transfer a machine gun lawfully under the federal firearms law, and they were arrested at the conclusion of the transaction.

This is another case prosecuted as a part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" program - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative supported by ATF. United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the Project Safe

Neighborhoods effort here in the Middle District of Florida, in cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials. The program aims to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders.

The case was investigated by ATF. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer.

---